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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 287796
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S E C R E T STATE 287796

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT NICOSIA 3093 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA, ATHENS AND USUN NEW YORK NOV 28.

QUOTE: S E C R E T NICOSIA 3093

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, CY
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL ON US/USSR JOINT INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS

REF: USUN 4993

1. AT LUNCH NOV 28, WE ASKED CLERIDES ABOUT HIS REASONS FOR SUGGESTING A US/USSR CYPRUS INITIATIVE GROUNDED IN ACTION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL (SC). CLERIDES SAID IT WOULD BE WRONG TO DESCRIBE HIS IDEA AS A US/USSR INITIATIVE. RATHER, HE HAD IN MIND THAT BOTH SHOULD ACQUIESCE TO A DEBATE WHICH WOULD RESULT IN SENDING A FACT-FINDING MISSION TO CYPRUS TO REPORT TO THE SYG. BOTH COUNTRIES,
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AFTER ALL, SAY THEY SUPPORT A SOLUTION BASED ON BIZONALITY, NONALIGNMENT AND INDEPENDENCE. HIS IDEA, HOWEVER, WAS NOT TO INVOLVE THE RUSSIANS BUT, THROUGH THE FACT-FINDING MISSION TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON TERRITORY AND CONSTITUTION WHICH WOULD BRIDGE THE POSITION OF THE PARTIES AND GET THINGS OFF DEAD CENTER. CLERIDES SAID HIS ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION IS THAT THE

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GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE WILL MOVE NO FURTHER IN THE ABSENCE
OF SPECIFIC TURKISH PROPOSALS AND THE GOT, OUT OF
INTERNAL POLITICAL STRESS, CANNOT INITIATE THESE.

2. WE INFORMED CLERIDES THAT, WHETHER DIRECTLY OR
INDIRECTLY, SUCH SC ACTION WOULD BRING THE USSR INTO
THE CYPRUS PORBLEM, WHERE WE THOUGHT IT HAD NO PLACE.
USG SUPPORTS AN APPROACH TO THE SOLUTION WITHIN A UN
FRAMEWORK, THROUGH EARLIEST RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL
TALKS AND EMPHASIS ON THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE
PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED. USG ITSELF STANDS READY TO
ASSIST IN THIS PROCESS AND IS PROBABLY IN THE BEST
POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE OUTSIDE HELP IF SUCH HELP IS
NEEDED BEYOND ROLE OF SYG. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT SUSTAINED
NEGOTIATION CAN COMMENCE IN MARCH, IF NOT EARLIER.

3. CLERIDES COMMENTED THAT IF USG WAS WILLING TO TAKE
ON THIS KIND OF RESPONSIBILITY, THAT WOULD BE FINE WITH
HIM. HE HAD ONLY THOUGHT USG MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN
SC AND FACT-FINDING MISSION AS A DEVICE TO MOVE MATTERS
FORWARD WHILE AVOIDING THE BRICKBATS WHICH WOULD BE
THROWN AT ANY SIGNLE PARTY WHICH SOUGHT TO HELP ON
SUBSTANCE.

4. COMMENT: THIS CONVERSATION LEAVES CLERIDES IN NO
DOUBT THAT US WOULD NOT APPROVE HIS LINE OF THINKING,
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WHICH WE SUSPECT IS MORE RELATED TO GREEK CYPRIOT
POLITICS THAN TO DIPLOMACY ON THE CYPRUS PORBLEM. OUR
SUPPOSITION SEEMS BORNE OUT BY THE FACT THAT IN THE
PAST WEEK CLERIDES HAS GONE PUBLIC WITH HIS IDEA,
WHICH IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN HE DOES DESCRIBE AS A
PROPOSAL FOR US/USSR COLLABORATION. ON NOV 23,
PRO-CLERIDES DAILY SIMERINI REPORTED THAT CLERIDES HAD
CALLED ON SOVIET AMBASSADOR ASTAVIN PREVIOUS DAY TO
PROMOTE THE IDEA OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER
POWERS WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN THE EFFORTS OF UNSYG.
PAPER STATED THAT CLERIDES HAD FIRST BROACHED THE IDEA
IN NEW YORK DURING UNGA DEBATE AND HAD FOUND SUPPORT
FOR IT BY BOTH COUNTRIES. SIMERINI DID NOT REPORT
DETAILS OF CLERIDES' PLAN; AMBASSADOR ASTAVIN WAS SAID
TO BE "UNDERSTANDING." ON NOV 26, SIMERINI HEADLINED
THAT CLERIDES WOULD MEET WITH AMERICAN AMBASSADOR
NOV 28 TO DISCUSS A JOINT US/USSR INITIATIVE. CRAWFORD
UNQUOTE VANCE

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